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Subject: Appointment of Mufti of Jerusalem      Report No: RPJ- 389

Date of Information:

Place Acquired: Jerusalem

Date Acquired: 28 December 1948

Evaluation: B-2

Date of Report: 29 December 1948

Source: Arab interpreter

1. Through a proclamation by the Military Governor of Jerusalem, SHEIKH HUSAM EL-DIN JABALLAH, has been appointed the MUFTI of Jerusalem. The proclamation was made upon the recommendation of independent religious bodies of Arab Palestine and Trans-Jordan, which King Abdullah apparently endorsed and agreed to. No mention whatsoever was made of the previous Mufti. The new Mufti is referred to as the Most Reverend Mufti of Jerusalem, whereas HAJ AMIN HUSSSEINI has always been referred to as His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

2. Subject was born in Jerusalem of an old and rich family. He is about seventy years old. He was educated at AZHAR MOSQUE University, Cairo.

3. Upon Sheikh Karel Husseini's death (HAJ AMIN's predecessor) the source states Sheikh HUSAM won majority of the votes all over the country. However, for political reasons the Mandate Government preferred Haj Amin Husseini.

4. In 1921 Sheikh Husam was appointed as inspector of Muslim Religious Courts. He also appears to have been working as an inspector in the Dept. of Education. He resigned these positions in 1926, going to Trans-Jordan where he served as President of the Court in Amman, Chief Justice and finally as Minister of Justice.

5. He returned to Palestine in 1939. Haj Amin Husseini was then outside the country, and the Palestine Government offered him the post of the Mufti of Jerusalem. He is said to have refused. He was later appointed as a member of a committee which governed the Supreme Moslem Council during the disturbances and then later the war. He also served as President of Supreme Moslem Council and lectured at the Jerusalem Law School.

6. He retired on a pension in 1946, but continued lecturing at the Law School until March 1948.

7. He is described as a liberal minded personality. His daughters have university education, and one of them studied in London. He is reportedly not politically minded, and is an expert in Religious Law.

Classification

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